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May 3, 2004

Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2107

Dear Congressman Markey:

The American Burn Association is most pleased to provide its strong endorsement for HR 4155, known as the "Cigarette Fire Safety Act of 2004." We applaud your efforts in introducing this important legislation in the House on April 2, 2004.

The American Burn Association represents the nation's burn surgeons, nurses, therapists, other members of the burn care team, and the nation's leading medical institutions with burn centers.

The development and implementation of fire safe cigarette legislation has been a key point in the ABA's advocacy agenda for more than 15 years. Recently, the ABA and its members have advocated the development of such legislation directly with members of Congress through the annual ABA National Leadership Conference. The ABA has strongly supported past legislation HR 1130, the Fire Safe Cigarette Act of 1999 and HR 4607/S 2317, the Joseph Moakley Memorial Fire Safe Cigarette Act of 2002, and participated in two US government studies that successfully demonstrated the technical and economic feasibility of commercial production of fire safe cigarettes.

The importance of this issue is already apparent at the state level, with the enactment of fire safe cigarette legislation in New York, effective in June 2004, and the introduction or discussion of similar legislation in Massachusetts, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Michigan, Minnesota, Oregon, Maine and California. The ABA strongly and actively supports state and federal legislation mandating that only fire safe cigarettes be developed, produced or distributed in the United States.

Sincerely,

John A. Krichbaum, JD
Executive Director, American Burn Association